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Stone Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1953

S T O N E U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Stone Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1953.

I took up duty here on 6th February, 1953, and for the portion of the year preceding this, duties were carried out by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. Arthur.

I wish to pay tribute to the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, the Additional Sanitary Inspector and the clerical staff of the Department for their assistance and co-operation.

I also wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council and the Health Visitor for the help and co-operation which I have received from them during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F. J. MURRAY.

Medical Officer of Health.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FOR THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health

F. J. Murray.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time).

C. Arthur

Sanitary Inspector.

G. A. Graves, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

R. Hall.

Clerks.

Miss E. E. Freakley.

Miss M. Eyre.

A. GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	1,605
Population (General Register Office)	8,452
Number of inhabited houses	2,634
Population Density	3.029
Rateable Value	£46,513
Sum represented by a penny rate	£184

INDUSTRIES.

Boot and Shoe Factory

Pottery Factory

Breweries

Tile Factory

Glass Works.

Farms.

Light Industries.

B. PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Domiciliary and General Practice Nursing.

Two District Nurse-Midwives provide a very efficient and satisfactory nursing service for the Urban District. In addition, there is one private nursing home operated by a certified mid-wife.

The five general practitioners in the town continue to provide adequate Medical services for the town and district.

Hospital Services.

When necessary, cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Moxley Isolation Hospital, near Wednesbury, or Bucknall Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

Yarnfield Convalescent Home is available to patients from Stafford General Infirmary, when required.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to Stafford General Infirmary and the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent.

Aged people and chronic cases are provided for by Trent Hospital, which is administered by the Staffordshire Hospital Management Committee.

School Clinics and Welfare Centres.

The Staffordshire County Council continue to hold School Clinics at St. Michael's Hall every Thursday morning, and provide school dental services at the Kitchener Institute.

An Assistant County Medical Officer attends at Walton Community Centre every Wednesday afternoon and at St. Michael's Hall every Thursday afternoon for infant welfare consultations and services, where immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is provided.

Health Visiting.

A full time health visitor is employed by the County Council for work in the district. The health visitor attends all sessions of the school clinics and infant welfare

centres, following up all cases as necessary by visits to the home, also co-operating with the Public Health Department in cases where bad housing conditions exist.

Tuberculosis Services.

As there is no local Tuberculosis Clinic, the patients in the Urban District who have developed this disease travel to Mill Bank Dispensary, Stafford.

Laboratory Service.

All specimens from general practitioners, milk, water and sewage effluent samples, together with suspected unsound foods, are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford for examination. The laboratory provides an invaluable service for this branch of public health administration.

The Ministry of Agriculture laboratory at Wolverhampton accept specimens of diseased meat for examination when laboratory tests are required for confirmation of opinions on the meat.

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance service from the Stone Ambulance Station is now operated from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays. If required at other times ambulances are called from Stafford.

Mortuary.

Mortuary facilities are provided at Trent Hospital.

C. GENERAL HEALTH IN THE AREA.

In commenting on the Vital Statistics tables I would point out that comparisons with the national rates should only be made with the appreciation that rates for this district are based on a small population and do not, therefore, give a true index of the general health.

It is gratifying to note that there were no deaths from puerperal causes during the year.

It will be noted that the number of births for the year has increased to 134 (112 for 1952). This gives a Birth Rate of 15.85 per 1,000 of population which is comparable with that for England and Wales which is 15.5 for 1953.

The number of deaths of infants under one has increased from 2 in 1952 to 4 in 1953.

The Death Rate in Stone for 1953 is 19.16 per 1,000 population compared with 11.4 per 1,000 population for England and Wales for the same period. It was returned as 7.19 for the year 1952. This is due to the fact that under the new arrangements by the Ministry of Health all deaths which occur in the Trent Hospital are registered here in the Stone Urban District, with the result that the death rate figure does not give a true indication of the number of actual Stone residents who have died during the year. From this it will be understood that the true Death Rate figure for the Urban District is much lower than that recorded. I have appealed against this and am now awaiting a reply.

The actual number of Stone residents who died during the year was 89, which gives a Death Rate of 10.53 per 1,000 population.

Infectious Diseases.

There were no deaths from Infectious Diseases during 1953. The number of cases notified during the year was 154 (162 in 1952).

Pneumonia. The pneumonia cases notified totalled seven, none of which were fatal - in 1952 there were four deaths from this cause.

Measles. Of the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified (154) - 129 (or 83.2%) were due to an outbreak of

measles which occurred in the autumn of the year.

Whooping Cough. The number of notifications of this disease decreased from 43 in 1952 to 5 in 1953, and this, I believe, points out the value of immunisation against this disease.

Poliomyelitis. 5 cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, only three of which were subsequently confirmed.

Other Infectious Diseases. No cases of diphtheria, dysentery, puerperal fever, were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis. The following are the number of cases of this disease since 1949:-

1949	-	16 cases
1950	-	6 cases
1951	-	3 cases
1952	-	5 cases
1953	-	7 cases

The number of deaths from this cause for the year was 2 (the same as in 1952).

Whilst there is an increase in the number of notifications, the death rate from this cause remains stationary. This was due to the tracing and examination of contacts and to improvement in the housing conditions.

Food Poisoning.

During the year a clean food campaign was inaugurated by the Health Department with the result that only three cases were notified during the year, which is very satisfactory considering the number of people who partake of communal meals in canteen and schools. The manner in which the food shops in the town co-operate with the Health Department was much appreciated, and encouraging. Constant efforts were made during the year to improve the hygienic conditions in the handling, storage and distribution of food.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken in 1952 under Section 47 of this Act.

D. VITAL STATISTICS.

These statistics give particulars of the births and deaths in the district, and show various 'rates' which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales. A complete list of the causes of deaths will be found in Table 7 at the end of the report.

Table No. 1.

	Live Births		Still Births		Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Legitimate	72	55	3	-	1	3
Illegitimate	3	4	-	-	-	-
	75	59	3	-	1	3

Table No. 2.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths in Stone U.D.	Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births Stone U.D. England & Wales.	
Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	Nil	0.00	0.10
Abortion with Toxaemia	Nil	0.00	0.01
Other Toxaemia of pregnancy and the puerperium	Nil	0.00	0.24
Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	Nil	0.00	0.13
Abortion with Sepsis	Nil	0.00	0.06
Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxaemia	Nil	0.00	0.04
Other complication of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	Nil	0.00	0.18

Table 3

Births and Deaths Rate.

	Stone U.D.	England and Wales
Live births per 1,000 population	15.85	-
Adjusted	15.22	15.5
Still births per 1,000 population	.71	-
Adjusted	.68	00.35
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	19.17	-
Adjusted	18.79	11.4
Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	29.85	22.4

Table No. 4.

	<u>Infectious Diseases.</u>												Total	Deaths
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	40			
Smallpox													Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever						3						3		-
Diphtheria												Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteric, including Paratyphoid												Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery												Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia												Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia				1		1				2	3	7	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas												Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	2	6	12	6	18	77	7		1			129	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough		1	2	1		1						5	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning			1					1		1		3	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis			1		1	2		1				5	Nil	Nil
Meningitis			1						1			2	Nil	Nil

Table No. 5.

TUBERCULOSIS.New cases and mortality during 1953.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pumonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 4	1							
5 - 9	1							
10 - 19	1							
20 - 34		3				1		
35 - 49								
50+	1				1			
	4	3	-	-	1	1	-	-

Death Rate for Tuberculosis - Stone U.D. - 0.24.
 England and Wales - 0.20

Table No. 6.

Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register for the District
at the end of the last four years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
1950	19	22	9	15	65
1951	20	23	8	15	66
1952	21	26	7	15	69
1953	20	16	3	-	39

Table No. 7.

CAUSES OF DEATH
in Stone Urban District in 1953.

Classified according to the Registrar General's Short List of Causes.

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningo-coccal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	13
18. Coronary disease, angina	8	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-
20. Other heart disease	15	22
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	3
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	3	3
24. Bronchitis	7	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34. All other accidents	1	1
35. Suicide	4	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All Causes		77 85

E. REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR ON SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF
THE AREA.

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year for all purposes:-

	Inspections	Number of Notices served	
		Formal	Informal
Drainage and Sewage	366	7	4
Water Supply	12		
Refuse Collection & Disposal	91		
Nightsoil Collection	1		
Dwelling Houses - Repairs	203	2	20
" " - Demolition	234	8	
Housing Appl's & Overcrowding	274		
Tents, Vans and Sheds	23		3
Canal Boats	2		
Infectious Disease	34		
Verminous & Dirty Premises	9		
Other Insect Infestations	17		
Rodent Control	28		1
Keeping of Animals	2		
Pet Animals Act	3		
Miscellaneous Notices	13		6
Factories	27		
Workplaces	2		
Outworkers	1		
Means of Escape in Case of Fire	1		
Petroleum Storage	24		
Smoke Nuisance	10		
Schools	3		
Shops (Health Provisions)	13	2	2
" (Shops Act Inspections)	54		
Dangerous Buildings, etc.	1		
Miscellaneous	21		
Abattoir - Meat Inspection	394		
" Other "	17		1
Meat Shops	16		
Ice Cream Premises	38		1
Dairies	12		
Cafes, Restaurants & Canteens	24		2
Other Food Premises	35		5
Food Poisoning	6		
Miscellaneous	11		
	2022	19	45

1. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Samples of the effluent discharged from the sewage disposal works have been taken by the County Health Department and the Trent Rivers Board, and all have been satisfactory, that is, within the standard suggested by the Royal Commission.

Details of foul and storm sewage, 1948-53:-

	Foul	Storm	Total
1948	127,324,000	7,424,272	134,748,272
1949	122,035,000	9,957,640	131,992,640
1950	141,294,000	9,274,900	150,568,900
1951	154,344,700+	13,089,760	167,434,460
1952	164,902,533+	7,918,520+	172,821,053
1953	160,102,650+	8,649,280+	168,751,930

+ Includes an estimated quantity for a few days during which meters were not operating. The number of days when this occurred are as follows:-

	Foul	Storm
1951	11	-
1952	5	2
1953	5	40

It can be observed from the above figures that since 1948 there has been a steady increase in the total quantity of sewage treated, with the exception of this year, where a slight fall has occurred over the previous year.

Further attention has been paid to the question of carrying out extensions and improvements at the treatment works, and your Public Health Committee approved in principle a draft scheme which has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

2. Drainage.

Considerable improvement has been made in the quality of new drainage work. All contractors in the district have now been made aware of the standard methods and materials which are required by this authority. On completion of work all drains and manholes are water tested.

2. Drainage (Continued).

It was found necessary during the year to serve statutory notices in respect of six houses where existing drains were in such a condition that they were causing flooding in the cellars.

3. Closet Accommodation and Septic Tanks.

There are twenty-one pail closets and nineteen septic tanks in the district. The emptying of pails is undertaken by the Council, the cleansing of septic tanks is not carried out by the Authority

4. Water Supply.

The water supply for the town is supplied by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board. While the water is excellent bacteriologically, it is nevertheless extremely hard.

Regular sampling is carried out by the Board and copies of the reports provided.

There are still a number of houses without water in the house over a sink and one house without any piped supply. The majority of these houses are of a type where it would be uneconomic to improve the water supply because their standard is such that they are likely to be demolished within the next few years.

New supplies - During 1953, 93 new houses were connected to the mains.

5. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Despite difficulties, collection of refuse has been maintained on a weekly basis.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. In addition to the Stafford Street tip, which on completion is being grassed for use as a playing field, a stagnant pond on the Walton Estate and a gravel hole on the Lichfield Road housing site were also filled in by tipping.

Only once during the year was a tip on fire and this was rapidly got under control.

5. Refuse Collection and Disposal. (Continued).

.. A new refuse collection vehicle was purchased to replace the electric vehicle which was destroyed by fire.

Salvage - Due to a recession in the waste paper trade, and our limited storage space, salvage of paper during the year was only carried out on a limited scale. Not until October was a customer for salvage found and stocks of paper cleared.

The collection and salvage of other materials continued as usual.

Details of the years trading are as follows:-

	Weights			Receipts.		
	T.	c.	q	£.	s.	d
Waste Paper	17.	18.	3	77.	7.	6
Rags	1.	16.	1	29.	0.	0
Iron and Brass	5.	4.	0	18.	2.	2
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	24.	19.	-	124.	9.	8
	<hr/>			<hr/>		

HOUSING.

6. Erection of Dwelling Houses.

Erection of houses by the local authority has progressed very favourably during the year, 80 houses having been completed on the Lichfield Road housing site alone.

Private building has not shown any improvement, but this is probably due to the dearth of suitable sites in the urban district.

Table 1 - Number of houses erected during the year:-

(i)	By Local Authority	86
(ii)	" other local authorities	Nil
(iii)	" private enterprise	7
(iv)	" Ministry of Supply	Nil
		<hr/>
		93
		<hr/>

Table 2 - Number of houses owned by the Council on the 31st December, 1953, which were built under the provisions of the Housing Acts.

Erected during the years 1919 - 1940	311
1947	10
1948	72
1949	56
1950	20
1951	6
1952	28
1953	86
	<hr/>
	589
	<hr/>

7. Inspection, Repair and Demolition of Dwelling Houses.

A provisional survey of the worst property in the town was carried out in March of this year and details submitted to the Public Health Committee. While it was agreed that about sixty houses should be dealt with by demolition, it was decided that for the time being it was possible only to deal with individually unfit houses as no dwellings were being erected which were suitable either in type or in rent for the type of tenant which would be displaced if clearance areas were made. Nevertheless,

7. Inspection, Repair and Demolition of Dwelling Houses. (Cont.)

seven unfit houses were demolished or closed during the year and action started in connection with three more. Another house in respect of which notice of time and place was served, was eventually made fit by extensive repairs.

It seems imperative that before any large clearance scheme can be embarked upon, cheaper rented properties must be found for the purpose of rehousing.

Inspection.

1. a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts)	81
b) Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	203
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	59
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	22

Remedy of Defects.

Number of houses required, rendered fit or improved in consequence of formal action.	25
Number of dwelling houses repaired, rendered fit or improved in consequence of informal action.	5
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit or improved in consequence of voluntary action by owner.	21

Demolition.

Number of dwelling houses demolished in consequence of formal action.	5
Number of dwelling houses closed or no longer used	2
Number of dwelling houses demolished in consequence of informal action.	Nil
Number of dwelling houses demolished in consequence of voluntary action by owner	Nil

8. Overcrowding and Rehousing.

With the steady increase in the number of houses erected by this Authority, a great improvement in the housing position has been achieved during the year. Statutory overcrowding has been virtually eliminated and there are very few cases remaining where extreme hardship exists due to living conditions.

9. Moveable Dwellings.

There are no licensed sites for moveable dwellings in the area although two sites are used from time to time for fairs and circuses.

One application was made for licensing of a site but the application was rejected both on planning and public health grounds. The illegal stationing of caravans on the site was discontinued as a result of informal action.

10. Dirty and Verminous Premises and Insect Infestations.

During the year efforts have been made to further reduce the number of dirty and verminous premises. In all cases it has been found unnecessary to resort to legal action.

Control of flies and other insect infestations has also been carried out by the department.

11. Rodent Control.

Twice during the year the town's sewers were treated for infestation under the general direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Also, regular treatment for tip and other surface infestations were carried out.

Details of treatments other than sewers are as shown in the following table:-

11. Rodent Control (Continued).

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agric- ultural	All other Purposes.
<u>Rats.</u>				
Major Infestations	1	-	-	2
Minor "	6	40	-	11
<u>Mice.</u>				
Major Infestations	1	6	1	3
Minor "	-	-	-	-

12. Pet Animals Act.

Only one shop is licensed for the purpose of this Act.
No contraventions of the Act have occurred.

13. Factories.

Number on Register	47
Number of inspections for all purposes	27

No serious contraventions of the Factories Act have been observed.

14. Smoke Abatement.

The major part of atmospheric pollution in the town is probably caused by smoke emitted from dwelling houses, over which there is no legal control.

Complaints have been received from time to time regarding industrial smoke emission, but generally speaking such emissions are spasmodic and occur only during periods of peak steam demand.

15. Shops Act.

(a) Health Provisions. Some improvement has been made coincident with the work of enforcement of Food and Drugs Administration. Two statutory notices were served requiring the provision of a water supply to sanitary accommodation in shops.

(b) Provisions enforced by Shops Act Authority.
54 inspections were carried out during the period and no serious contraventions of the Act were observed.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

16. Inspection of Meat.

Throughout the year, meat for the Stone Urban and Rural areas has been supplied by the Ministry of Food Abattoir in High Street.

The method of slaughter and inspection employed in previous years has been continued and the attendant difficulties remain the same.

The Ministry were again approached for the provision of a cooling hall and other equipment, but little was achieved as capital expenditure has been stopped in view of the likelihood of decentralisation of slaughtering in the near future.

The principles of criteria to be employed in the slaughter and inspection of animals, detailed by the Ministry of Food Memo. 3 were adopted by the Council in November.

Number of Animals Slaughtered.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
1948	789	546	2164	72
1949	813	513	3010	139
1950	1068	571	3138	44
1951	1329	431	3030	315
1952	1170	381	3736	730
1953	1005	288	3090	786

Details of carcasses inspected are shown in the following table:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs.
Number Killed	1005	288	3090	786
Number Inspected	1005	288	3090	786
<hr/>				
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis.</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	6	21	13	10
Animals of which some part or organ was condemned	486	2	141	27
<hr/>				
Percentage of number affected with disease other than tuberculosis	48.95	8.0	5.00	4.71
<hr/>				
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>				
Whole carcasses.	10	4	-	6
Animals of which some part or organ was condemned.	140	-	-	48
<hr/>				
Percentage of number affected with tuberculosis.	14.93	1.39	-	6.87
<hr/>				

Cysticercus bovis.

Included in the above figures are 25 cattle in which cysticercus bovis was detected. In these cases the offals were condemned and the carcasses despatched to Stoke-on-Trent for freezing treatment.

These 25 cases represent 2.49% of the total number of cattle inspected.

Total Weight of Home Killed Meat and Offal Condemned.

Meat - 6 tons 16 cwt 30 lbs.

Offal - 6 tons 3 cwt 15½ lbs.

17. Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for sale of
pre-packed ice cream at 31st December, 1952 22

Number of the above actually selling ice cream 20

Number of new registrations during the year 3

There are no premises in the district selling loose ice cream. Throughout the year samples were submitted regularly for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows:-

Provisional Grade 1	26 samples
" " 2	7 "
" " 3	2 "
" " 4	1 "

The above results are highly satisfactory and show considerable improvement over previous years.

The three grade 3 and 4 samples were all returned by one manufacturer whose premises are in the area of another authority.

18. Milk.

Samples of milk taken in this district by the County Authority were favourably reported on by the laboratory.

Biological tests have failed to isolate tuberculosis in all samples submitted.

Works of improvement have been carried out at one dairy.

19. Inspection of Food Handling Premises.

Improvements in food handling premises have continued during the year.

A great deal of work has been carried out voluntarily by shopkeepers who appreciate not only the necessity for hygienic premises but also the business value of improving their premises, as the general public become more conscious of the advantages of purchasing food from shops where efforts are made to maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

19.

19. Inspection of Food Handling Premises (Continued).

Seven informal notices have been served in connection with food premises, and legal action has not been found necessary.

20. Inspection of Food (Including Meat at the Abattoir).

One case has occurred where a loaf containing a finger bandage was sold. The loaf was condemned by a justice of the peace and it is probable that legal action will result.

The following foodstuffs have been voluntarily surrendered:-

Imported Meat, Canned Meat and Meat Products.	215 lbs 4 ozs.
Other Foods.	858 lbs $6\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.

